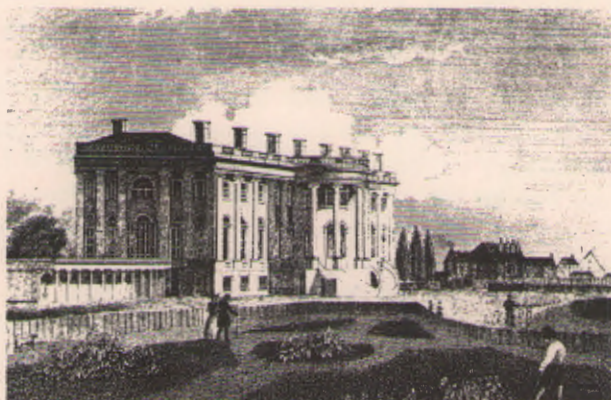




*The White House
Gardens and Grounds*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Welcome to the White House Gardens and Grounds!

It's hard to believe that these grounds were once "wild, a wilderness." These are the words Abigail Adams, the first President's wife to live here, wrote in a letter to her sister in 1800 describing them.

So much has happened since then. Whether I'm walking through a garden or looking out a window, I can't forget the history that is all around. I have the feeling that this is nature's personal diary of our American past. After all, every President has walked these grounds—including George Washington who personally selected this site—and almost all the Presidents have planted trees here. Children have rolled their Easter eggs on White House grass ever since President Hayes invited them into his backyard. And it was President Wilson's idea to have the Rose Garden.

As you walk along today, you'll see the American Elm planted by President John Quincy Adams. Perhaps you'll imagine President Taylor galloping by on his favorite mount, Whitey, the horse he rode in the Mexican War and brought with him to the White House.

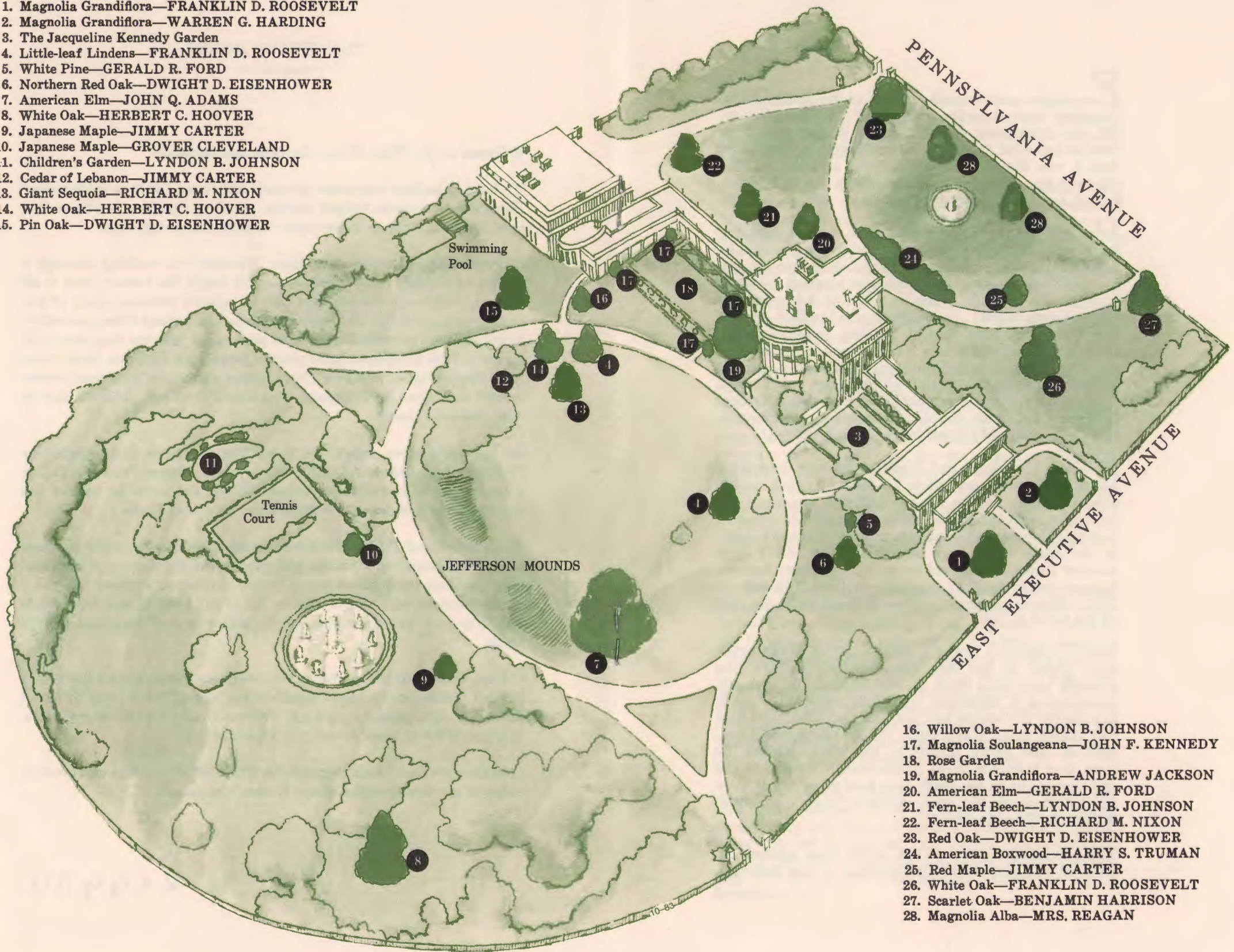
These lawns and gardens have seen administrations come and go. They have seen receptions for kings and queens and the signing of laws and treaties. They have heard young couples exchange wedding vows and many decisions which have affected all of our lives. If only trees could talk, I'm sure we'd have one more chapter in our American history books.

For me, these grounds symbolize how much our country has grown since Abigail Adams wrote those words to her sister. Trees from different nations stand together on one soil. Flowers of all sizes and colors bloom. It reminds me of what America is all about.

I am glad you could walk through the White House gardens and grounds today to see this splendor of our Nation's heritage.

Cloucy Reagan

1. Magnolia Grandiflora—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
2. Magnolia Grandiflora—WARREN G. HARDING
3. The Jacqueline Kennedy Garden
4. Little-leaf Lindens—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
5. White Pine—GERALD R. FORD
6. Northern Red Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
7. American Elm—JOHN Q. ADAMS
8. White Oak—HERBERT C. HOOVER
9. Japanese Maple—JIMMY CARTER
10. Japanese Maple—GROVER CLEVELAND
11. Children's Garden—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
12. Cedar of Lebanon—JIMMY CARTER
13. Giant Sequoia—RICHARD M. NIXON
14. White Oak—HERBERT C. HOOVER
15. Pin Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



16. Willow Oak—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
17. Magnolia Soulangeana—JOHN F. KENNEDY
18. Rose Garden
19. Magnolia Grandiflora—ANDREW JACKSON
20. American Elm—GERALD R. FORD
21. Fern-leaf Beech—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
22. Fern-leaf Beech—RICHARD M. NIXON
23. Red Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
24. American Boxwood—HARRY S. TRUMAN
25. Red Maple—JIMMY CARTER
26. White Oak—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
27. Scarlet Oak—BENJAMIN HARRISON
28. Magnolia Alba—MRS. REAGAN

Few places provide such a sense of the continuity of American history as the grounds of the White House. All our Presidents except George Washington have lived and worked on this knoll overlooking the Potomac. And it was Washington himself who selected the site, allowing for extensive grounds, which would be landscaped as the "President's Park."

John Adams, the second President, moved into the mansion in the fall of 1800, describing the grounds as a barren expanse strewn with building rubble and abandoned brick kilns. Jefferson first planned the landscape of the grounds, when he followed Adams to the White House in 1801. Ironically, it was the first Adams' son, President John Quincy Adams, inaugurated in 1825, who loved the White House grounds the most of all. He employed a full-time gardener and developed extensive plantings, some of which he set out himself. A stately American elm planted by him still flourishes in the south grounds, the oldest of some 25 commemorative trees planted by Presidents through the past.

All of our Presidents and First Ladies have been, in a sense, avid gardeners. Each has made a mark on the grounds of the White House. Jefferson threw up the two mounds on the south as visual barriers to give privacy to the house; the ancient magnolia trees to the left of the south front were brought in the 1830's from Andrew Jackson's beloved home in Tennessee; Andrew Johnson built the first fountain on the south side in 1867, while his successor General Grant built the first on the north in 1873.

Early in the 20th century, as the city of Washington grew closer to the venerable President's Park, the grounds took on a more stately appearance with the introduction of numerous evergreen trees and shrubs, to preserve the remote and pastoral character the house had known since it was built. On the north was developed an open grove, largely of elm trees, shading the lawn that stretches from Pennsylvania Avenue to the mansion, while on the south deep borders of forest were planted, flanking the open carpet of lawn that slopes toward the Potomac River.

The spectacular view of the south was planned in 1935, in anticipation of the building of the Jefferson

Memorial. Numerous trees were removed from the end of the lawn, to allow for a full vista of the Memorial, completed during World War II, and the landscape of Virginia and Maryland beyond.

At the present time the White House grounds retain the lawn to the north, and the great open greensward to the south, with newer and more intimate gardens of a formal character near the base of the house, drinking the south sun. To the east is the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, with its delightful sense of the miniature, while on the west, tucked between the mansion and the West Wing, is the celebrated Rose Garden, now because of its ceremonial functions, one of the most famous gardens in the world.

For all their timelessness, the White House gardens receive the constant use and enjoyment not only of the occupants of the house and the staff, but of many Americans, both the many who visit in person and the many more who view the grounds through television coverage of various kinds. For the reception of foreign dignitaries by the President, the south facade of the White House becomes a colorful stage, with the Marine Band stationed on the double stairs. On a small platform before the portico the President and visitor exchange greetings, while crowds of many hundreds look on.

On Easter Monday, the President and First Lady open the gates to throngs of children, who come to the traditional Easter Egg Rolling. This originally started at the Capitol, and was removed to the White House by President Hayes in 1879. The presence of little children in the ongoing story of the White House is also commemorated today in the touching Children's Garden, which is located in the groves on the west side of the south lawn, and contains impressions in bronze of the hands and feet of children and grandchildren who have lived in the White House in recent years.

Gardens are living things. They do not survive without care and constant improvement. The White House grounds are not restorations and recreations of something lost, but themselves have lived in a sense always new for the better part of 200 years. In this respect they are among the most unique monuments to the American past.

